

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

Meeting 11:00 A.M.

Telephone Meeting

June 19, 2014 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Lionel Pinn, City of Napavine; Kathi Hoder, City of Aberdeen; Lonnie Willie, Town of Pe Ell; Arnold Haberstroh, City of Chehalis; Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County Commissioner

Board Members Excused: Ken Estes, City of Montesano

Board Members Absent: Don Thompson, City of Oakville; Wes Cormier, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Vickie Raines, City of Cosmopolis

Others Present: Jim Kramer, Scott Boettcher, Lee Napier, Dale Lewis, Kyle Spurr, Cindy Wilson, Jessica Hausman, Frank Kersch, Deanna Zieske, Dennis Osborn

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from May 15
- Summary of Policy Workshop and Public Meetings

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m.

2. Introductions

Participants identified themselves as they called in.

3. Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda and it was approved.

4. Approval of May 15 Meeting Notes

There were no corrections and the meeting notes were approved.

5. Update: Decision by Chair and Vice Chair authorizing a second budget amendment for the Bucoda Levee Project

Mr. Boettcher stated that Bucoda requested \$4500 for security fencing around its water well. There was already savings on that project and the Chair and Vice Chair were given authority to make the decision for the additional funding. At the last meeting \$24,000 was authorized for funding the fencing and that amount was \$4500 short. That additional funding was authorized and the project still came in under budget.

6. Update: Local Projects

Mr. Boettcher sent a link that included updates on current projects and construction projects and future projects awaiting approval.

The Bucoda Levee Project is done with the final walk-through on June 16. That project came in at \$3800 under budget.

Construction project: Sheet pile wall in Montesano. Photos were sent out on this project on June 18 and more photos will be sent during the next few weeks. That project has an estimated \$400,000 savings.

Going to construction: Pe Ell wastewater treatment plant flood prevention dike. Construction of the berm was approved by city council on June 3. Completion is expected in late August or early September.

Airport Levee Project – Additional resources were appropriated from the Montesano project and the County is waiting for the ground to dry out to haul material, perhaps in early July. That will finish up Phase 1A, which was to widen the base of the levee and put gravel on top, and should be completed in about 30 days.

By September the airport levee should be done, as well as Pe Ell's project and the Montesano projects.

Looking forward to the next biennium there are about 11 projects that were identified in April with HDR and Watershed Science and Engineering. Five of those projects are in the Centralia/Chehalis area and have relationships with the WSDOT work on I-5. It was unknown if those projects would have a positive or negative affect. Last month the Project Committee and Governor's Work Group tried to discover how the projects would be affected by the DOT projects or if the DOT projects would affect the Flood Authority projects. It was very complex and HDR and the Work Group will be looking at them more closely. By October a decision needs to be made as to what projects will move forward for recommendation for the 2015-2017 biennium.

Mr. Averill stated the report from HDR has a good summary of the discussions. There is also a matrix that shows alternatives. There are some projects that may not have to be done by DOT.

Mr. Vanell stated it was good to go through the process and see DOT come to the table and work with the Flood Authority. We now understand where they are. The Flood Authority can feel confident about moving forward with projects and working with DOT.

Mr. Averill stated that there is a possibility that DOT would take over part of Phase II of the airport project rather than have it a continuation of the Flood Authority's project. Mr. Boettcher stated it is good to bring Phase IA to conclusion because there may not be a hand-off. DOT is tied to their alternatives and we are related to that because some of our projects may exacerbate elevations of water. We need to figure out how these sets of projects come out.

Vice Chair Valenzuela asked if that means that DOT would become a sponsor or pay for the project. Mr. Boettcher stated the airport levee is Lewis County's. Some of the levee and berm proposals that DOT is considering for I-5 cross into the airport levee area. If we did some work on Phase IB it may be for naught because of what DOT is proposing. We don't want to recommend funding projects that may not come to fruition, or we recognize that projects may not have beneficial effects and may cause rise in flood waters in the DOT area. We need to understand how these projects work with DOT. There are some projects, such as the Dillenbaugh Creek, that have some long-term beneficial benefits with DOT planning. The Dillenbaugh Creek project would remove the creek from under the roadway but DOT is not willing to take that on right now. Another meeting with DOT has not been scheduled.

Mr. Averill stated DOT needs to do more analysis and we need to look at what they have.

Vice Chair Valenzuela asked if there would be more information by next month's meeting. Mr. Boettcher stated we should have clear descriptions of what the projects are. Once they are understood we will understand the hydrologic impacts. Mr. Averill stated some of this would go to the Governor's Work Group. If there is a dam or not will have an impact on decisions.

Mr. Kramer stated at the July meeting the Flood Authority will lay out a process to make decisions on recommendations for the next biennium and try to reach those recommendations by the September meeting for the Governor's Work Group's consideration. This will be small projects funding, not all projects.

7. Update: Results of May 22-23 Policy Workshop and May 28-29 Public Meetings

Mr. Kramer stated not all Flood Authority members were able to attend the May 22-23 policy workshop. The public meetings on the 28th in Chehalis had very good attendance; the public meeting in Montesano on the 29th only had five people.

There was good participation at the policy workshop from the Flood Authority and the Governor's Work Group, as well as representation from state agencies and the Quinault Tribe. The latest information from the state agencies team was summarized in the paper that was sent out. There was new information on the analysis of structures that are affected by flooding, and a preview of effects of flooding and changes caused by climate change. We looked at benefits of salmon to enhance their habitat and cost estimates and impacts of retention structures on salmon and other species. There was a look at the I-5 work and where walls and levees might go and the effect they will have on other properties in the flood plain. There was discussion about a comprehensive approach of flood proofing major projects and compliment other projects. The next policy workshop will be on September 25 and 26 with will include a comparison of alternative packages as to how to reduce flood damage and enhance aquatic species. That will be the last workshop before the recommendation of projects to the Work Group.

Vice Chair Valenzuela asked what caused the disparity in attendance between the two locations, and that may be needed to take into consideration for future meetings. Mr. Kramer stated that could be discussed at the next meeting. The State Agency people were there. We need to reach out better to get more participation.

8. Financial Report

Ms. Napier stated the Studies expenditure shows a large expense. French and Associates are working to get ready to meet with jurisdictions. They submitted their invoice last month with a detailed account of what they are working on and Ms. Napier will share that with anyone who would like to see it. Mr. Averill stated it appears that we are on track to be able to finance through the end of the biennium. Ms. Napier stated there will be a significant amount spent on studies but that does not mean we are not on track.

9. Public Comment

Deanna Zieske stated the meeting at the Veteran's Museum was well attended and very well done. There were essentially two presentations to accommodate the early arrivals.

10. Reports

a. Chair's Report

There was no report.

b. Member Reports

Lewis County – Commissioner Fund stated the Outreach and Education committee will give two presentations: on June 30 to the Lewis County BOCC and on July 8 to the Centralia City Council.

Thurston County – Vice Chair Valenzuela thanked Mr. Kramer for the summary notes of the policy workshop. She stated the military is establishing contact with their communities. Presentations by the Department of Defense were about considerations of climate change and what the military is thinking regarding adaptation and readiness, and the rapid pace being a subject of national security. There was a good amount of information in the summary regarding climate change.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

d. State Team Report

There was no State Team Report.

11. Confirm next regular meeting, topics and location

The next meeting will be on July 17 in Centralia at the Centralia Police Department Training Center on Mellen St. Someone will be there to give a briefing on Centralia Station. There will be a discussion on the process for the Flood Authority including projects in the next biennium.

The meeting adjourned at 11:54.